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CAIRO PRESS ON YEMEN

CAIRO MENA IN ARABIC 0900 GMT 9 DEC 67 M

(TEXT) CAIRO--REPORTS OF FIERCE BATTLES BETWEEN THE YEMENI FORCES SUPPORTED BY REPUBLICAN TRIBES AND THE FOREIGN MERCENARIES ARE CARRIED UNDER BANNER HEADLINES IN TODAY'S CAIRO PAPERS.

CITING ITS SANA CORRESPONDENT, AL-AHRAM SAYS THE ATTEMPT BY YEMENI TRIBES SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN 1,000 BELGIAN, FRENCH, WEST GERMAN, AMERICAN, AND BRITISH MERCENARIES TO BESIEGE SANA IS MEETING STUBBORN AND BRAVE RESISTANCE FROM THE REPUBLICAN FORCES, ESPECIALLY FROM THE SHOCK TROOPS AND THE PARATROOPS SUPPORTED BY REPUBLICAN TRIBES. THE PAPER SAYS THAT THE REPUBLICAN FORCES ARE STILL IN CONTROL OF POINTS AT WHICH THEY HAVE BROKEN THROUGH THE SIEGE WHICH THE FOREIGN MERCENARIES ARE TRYING TO CLAMP AROUND THE CAPITAL.

AN ATTEMPT HAS ALSO BEEN MADE TO ATTACK SANA FROM JAHHANAH ON THE NORTHERN YEMENI BORDER. IT WAS FROM THERE THAT THE CIA-FINANCED PLAN WAS FIRST IMPLEMENTED. THE CIA PLACED FOREIGN MERCENARIES IN COMMAND OF TRIBAL FORCES TO BESIEGE AND LATER ATTACK SANA. BUT ALL THESE ATTEMPTS ARE MEETING STUBBORN RESISTANCE FROM THE YEMENI FORCES. THE PAPER ADDS THAT REPORTS FROM ALL PARTS OF YEMEN INDICATE THAT THERE IS COMPLETE CALM EVERYWHERE AND THAT THE DISTURBANCES ARE CONFINED TO THE SANA AREA ALONE.

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These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.